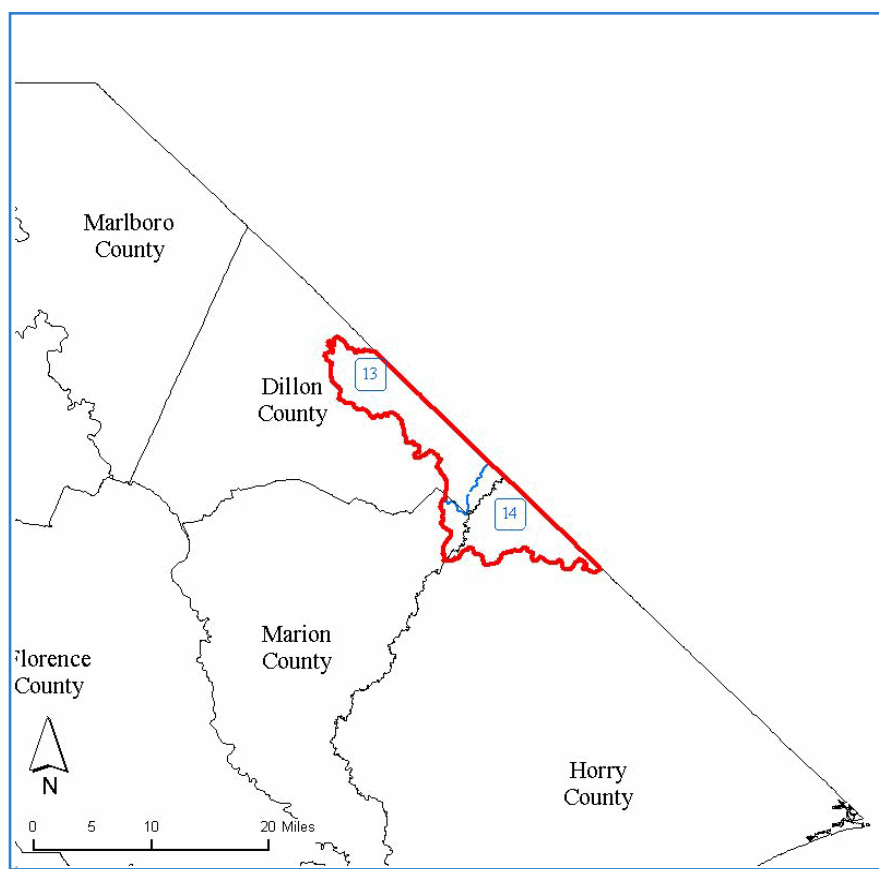


LUMBER Subbasin

August 31, 2007

An Assessment of the Lumber Subbasin

Hydrologic Unit Code (8 Digit): 03040203



WATERSHED (10-digit HUC)
(E.g., 01 = 0304020301)

- 13 Ashpole Swamp
- 14 Outlet Lumber River

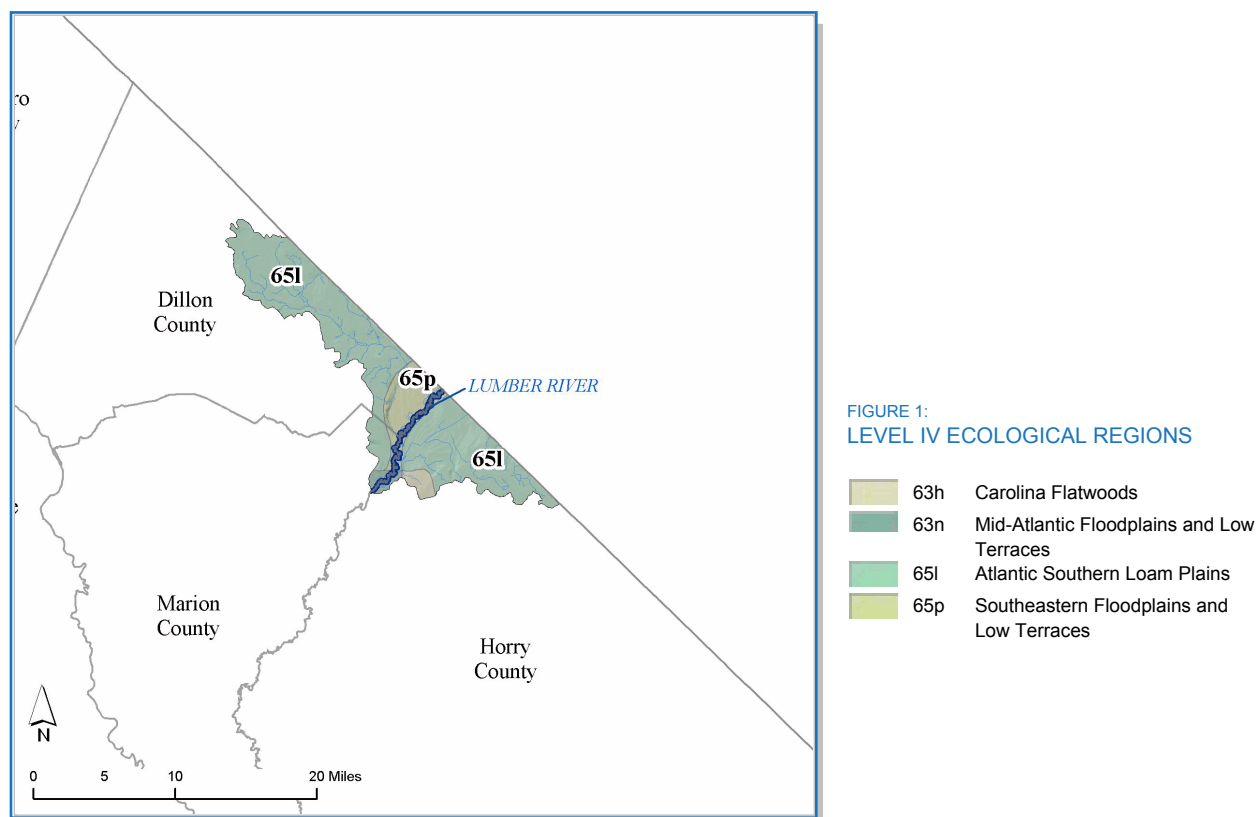


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Watershed Description

The Lumber River, also known as the Lumbee River, is located in south-central North Carolina in the flat Coastal Plain. The river's headwaters are known as Drowning Creek, and the waterway known as the Lumber River extends downstream from the Scotland County-Hoke County border to the North Carolina-South Carolina border. Soon after crossing into South Carolina, the Lumber River flows into the Little Pee Dee River. The Lumber River subbasin drains 122 square miles (78,000 ac) in South Carolina.

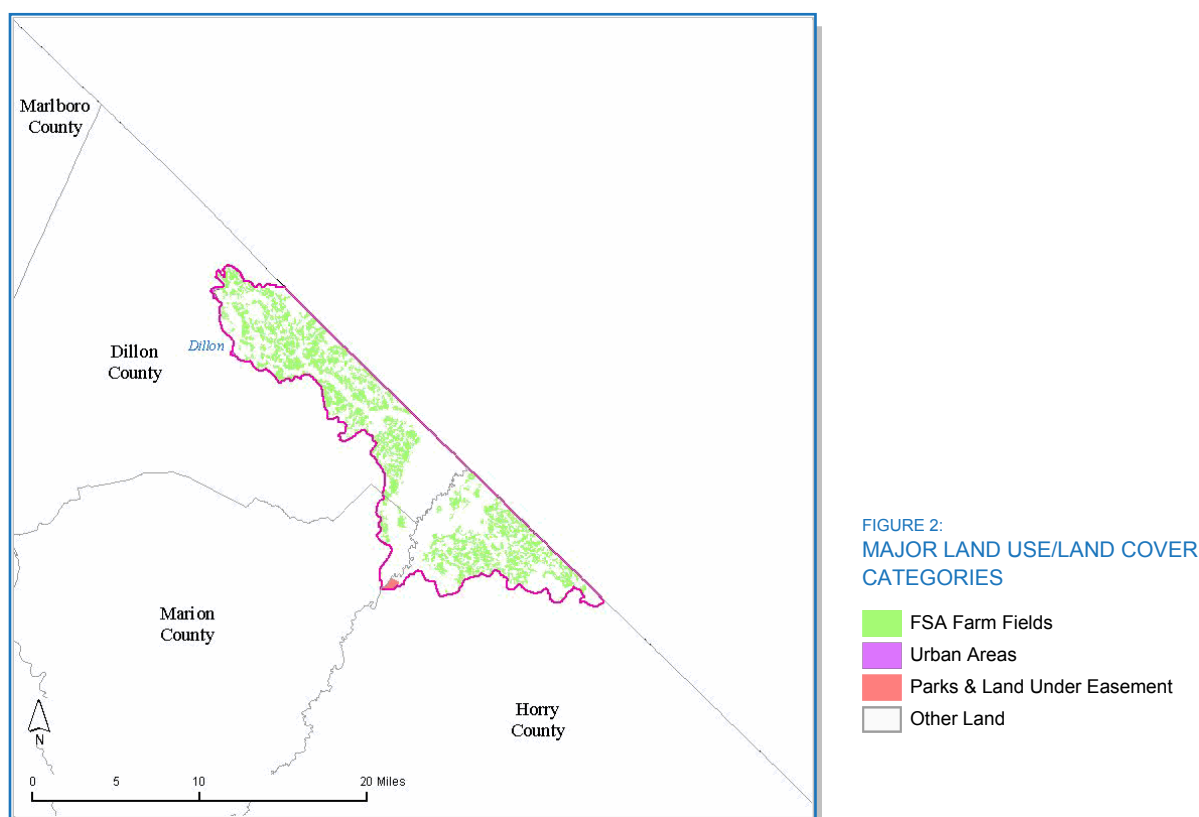
In South Carolina, the subbasin passes through the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain (63) and the Southeastern Plains (65) ecoregions (Figure 1). A brief description of the Level III ecoregions in this watershed is available in this document's appendix. A more detailed description of the Level III and Level IV Common Resource Areas (Ecological Regions) is available online (See Griffith *et al.* 2002 in References section.).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Land Use/Land Cover

This is a rural subbasin, most similar to the Little Pee Dee. No urban centers exist in this subbasin (Figure 2) but McColl, Dillon and Marion are located in the adjacent Little Pee Dee subbasin. The closest major urban area upstream is Lumberton, NC. The majority of the farmland in the subbasin is cropland (Table 2).



**Table 1:
MAJOR LAND USE/LAND COVER CATEGORIES**

	Acres	% of Watershed
Watershed (Total)	77,897	-
Urban Area	122	0%
Parks/Land Under Easement (not NRCS)	265	0%
Farm Service Agency Designated Farm Fields	241,161	310%

**Table 2:
AGRICULTURAL LAND USE: FSA ACREAGE AND ESTIMATED FARM FIELD USE FROM THE 2002 AG CENSUS**
(NASS Whole County Data Used. Cropland includes: Field Crops, Orchards, and Specialty Crops.)

County	FSA Fields (Acres)	% Pasture (Estimated)	% Cropland (Estimated)	% Hayland (Estimated)
Dillon	14,881	2%	96%	2%
Horry	8,607	9%	87%	4%
Marion	673	6%	89%	5%

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summary of Resource Concerns

The following is a summary of resource concerns for the watershed. Each resource concern has a more detailed analysis provided in its corresponding section.

Soils

Land capability limitations are dominated by wetness in this subbasin and are typical of an area within the Coastal Plain. Hydric soils or partially hydric soils comprise 72% of the subbasin and are the key resource concerns. Erosion is of moderate concern along upland soils along the Lumber River.

Water Quantity

Awaiting SCDNR's 2007 state water assessment.

Water Quality

A small number of monitoring stations, but few impairments that can be directly linked to agricultural activities.

Plant Condition

The most prominent crops in the subbasin include cotton, corn and wheat for grain, tobacco and soybeans.

Fish, Wildlife, and Native Plants

According to SC DNR's "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section), the following applies to this subbasin: Biologists have identified habitat protection as one of the most important actions to ensure the protection of South Carolina priority species. Loss and fragmentation of habitat have been identified as a major threat to many of the species listed as threatened and endangered in South Carolina.

Domestic Animals

Modest grazing livestock populations. Confined livestock operations are dominated by swine and poultry.

Economic and Social Factors

The subbasin is almost unique in the state because that farm sizes and amount of cropland acres actually *increased* between 1997 and 2002.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Progress on Conservation

Table 3:

A SUMMARY OF NRCS APPLIED CONSERVATION TREATMENTS (ACRES)

(See Appendix for NRCS Conservation Practices used for Conservation Treatment Categories.)

(Applied practice data is reported on a fiscal year basis commencing on October 1st)

Conservation Treatments	2004	2005	2006	Total
Buffers and Filter Strips	80	17	68	165
Conservation Tillage	599	-	49	648
Erosion Control	324	40	128	492
Irrigation Water Management	-	-	-	-
Nutrient Management	154	-	66	220
Pest Management	151	-	66	217
Prescribed Grazing	30	19	-	49
Trees and Shrubs	238	-	110	348
Wetlands	-	-	-	-
Wildlife Habitat	55	40	143	238

Table 4:

LANDS REMOVED FROM PRODUCTION BY FARM BILL PROGRAMS (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN)

County	Conservation Reserve Program (ac) 2005	Conservation Reserve Program (ac) 1986 - 2005	Grassland Reserve Program (ac) 2005	Farmland & Ranch Protection Program (ac) 2005	Wetland Reserve Program (ac) 2005
Dillon	2,998	31,665	-	57	410
Horry	7,060	51,256	-	752	1,582
Marion	1,727	14,178	-	1,074	2,844

Table 5:

APPROVED TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)

(See SCDHEC 2007 (a) in Reference Section.) - SCDHEC Contact: Matt Carswell - (803) 898-3609

TMDL Document	Number of Stations	Parameter of Concern	Status	WQMS ID Standard Attained
-	-	-	-	-

Table 6:

OTHER PLANS, ASSESSMENTS, AND PROJECTS IN THE WATERSHED

Organization	Description	Contact	Telephone
SCDHEC	Watershed Water Quality Assessment: Pee Dee River Basin (2000)	Roger Hall	803-898-4142

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Other Watershed Considerations

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Soils

A majority (68%) of land in this Coastal Plain subbasin has limitations due to wetness (Table 7). Much of the wetness is associated with hydric soils in riparian areas throughout the subbasin and upland flats in the eastern most part of the subbasin (Figure 5). Droughtiness is a major concern is about 15% of the area (Table 7) and occurs mostly in the sandy soils on stream terraces in Marion County and in the Sand Hills area in Dillon County (Figure 1). Low soil organic matter in these sandy soils is a soil health concern. Erosion is a resource concern in only a narrow band of sloping upland soils that border the Lumber River (Figures 1 and 4). Only 4% of the land is classified as potentially highly erodible (Table 9). Over 60% of the land in the Lumber subbasin is either prime farmland (30%) or statewide important farmland (30%) and occurs throughout the subbasin except in the area where the Marion, Horry, and Dillon counties join (Figure 3, Table 8).

Table 7:
LAND CAPABILITY CLASSES (See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in References section.)

Percentages are based on the whole watershed (77,897 ac).

Land Capability Class 1	Acres		Percent			
1 - Slight limitations	7,840		10%			
% Land by Subclass Limitation						
Land Capability Classes 2-8	Erosion (e)		Wetness(w)		Droughtiness (s)	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
2 - Moderate limitations	3,274	4%	12,948	17%	6,098	8%
3 - Severe limitations	309	0%	16,277	21%	3,244	4%
4 - Very severe limitations	137	0%	8,677	11%	2,667	3%
5 - No erosion hazard, but other limitations	-	-	1,812	2%	-	-
6 - Severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to pasture, range, forest	-	-	3,933	5%	317	0%
7 - Very severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to grazing; forest, wildlife habitat	-	-	8,509	11%	-	-
8 - Miscellaneous areas; limited to recreation, wildlife habitat, water supply	-	-	451	1%	-	-

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Prime Farmland

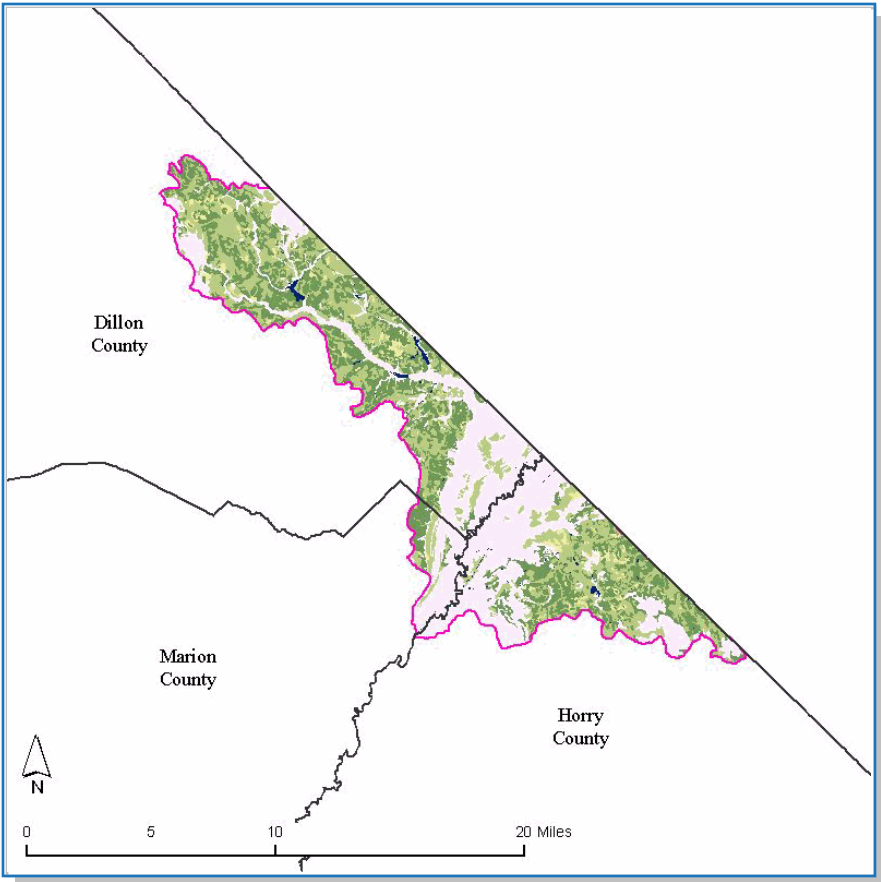


FIGURE 3:
PRIME FARMLAND
(See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in
References section.)

Table 8:
PRIME FARMLAND

Prime Farmland Categories	Acres	Percent of Land
All areas are prime farmland	21,207	27%
Farmland of statewide importance	23,562	30%
Not prime farmland	30,415	39%
Prime farmland if drained	2,455	3%
Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	0	0%
Prime farmland if irrigated	0	0%
Prime farmland if irrigated and drained	0	0%
Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	0	0%

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Highly Erodible Land

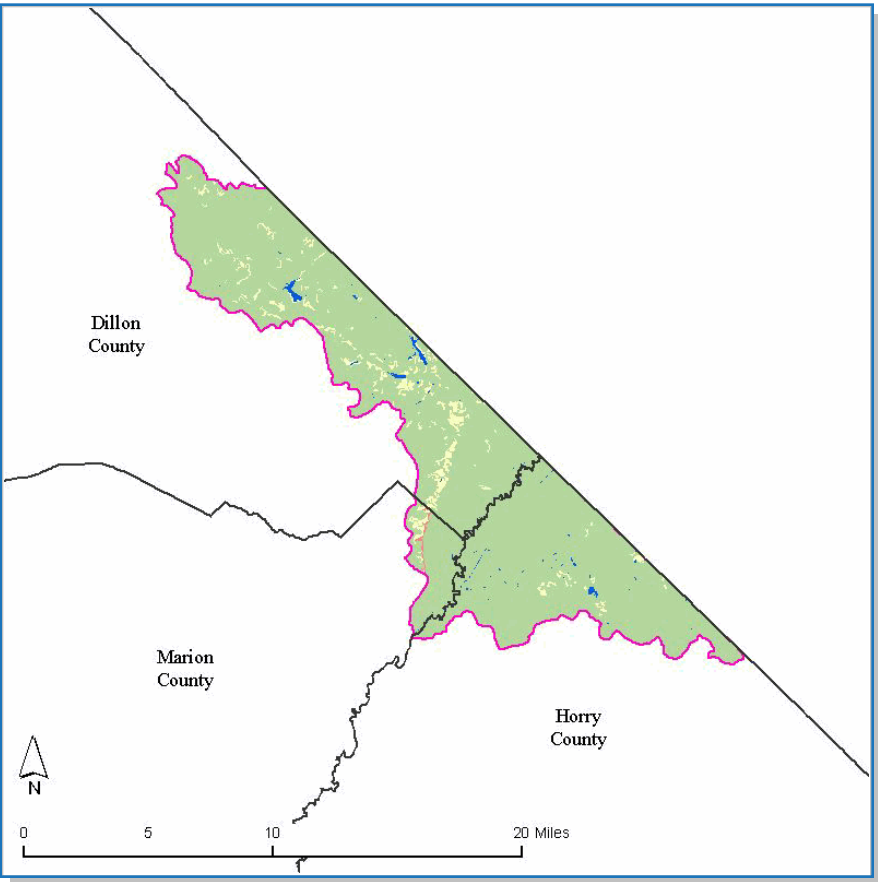


FIGURE 4:
HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND
(See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in
References section.)

Table 9:
HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND

Highly Erodible Land Categories		Acres	Percent of Watershed
■	Highly erodible land	123	0%
■	Not highly erodible land	73,518	94%
■	Potentially highly erodible land	3,158	4%

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Hydric Soils

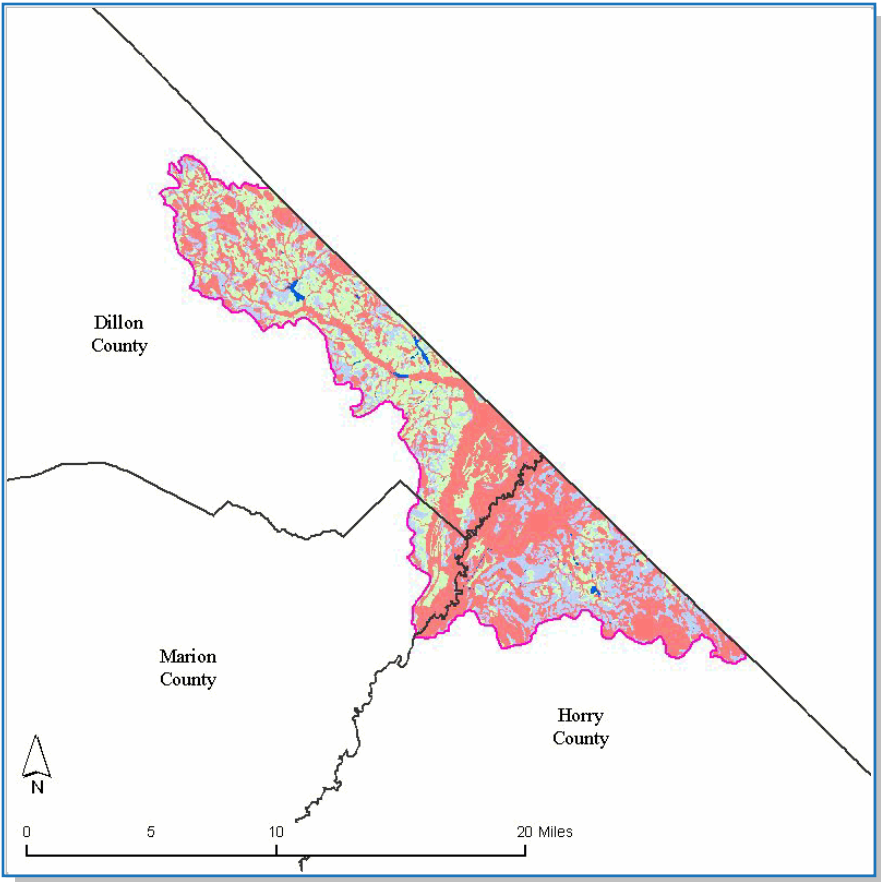


FIGURE 5:
HYDRIC SOILS
(See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in
References section.)

Table 10:
HYDRIC SOILS

Hydric Soils Categories	Acres	Percent of Watershed
All Hydric	39,000	50%
Not Hydric	21,407	27%
Partially Hydric	17,232	22%

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Water Quantity

Narrative awaiting SCDNR's new state water assessment.

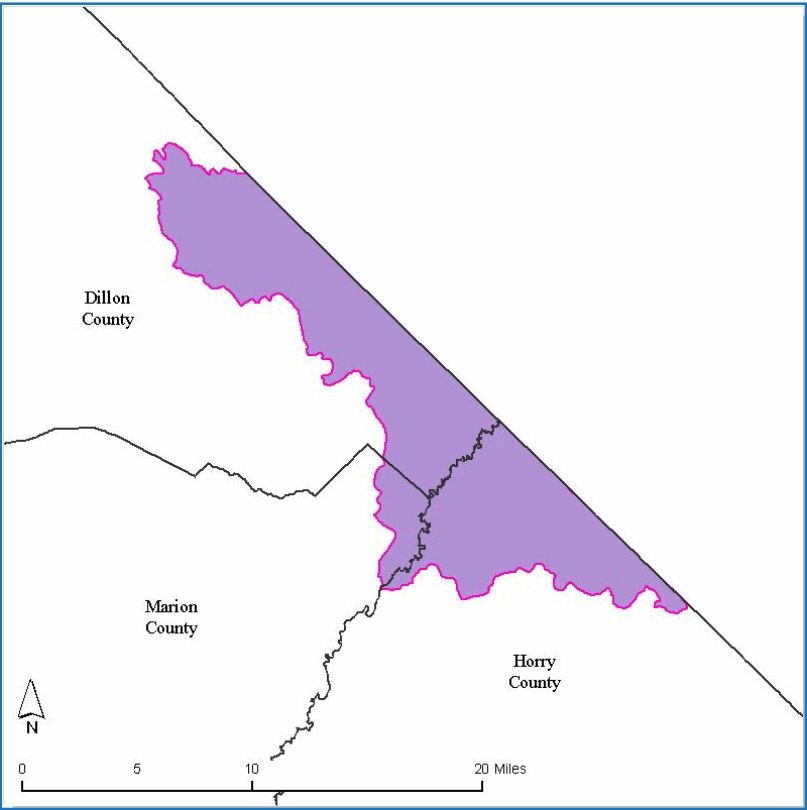


FIGURE 6:
WATERSHED RELATIVE TO CAPACITY
USE AREAS, NOTICE OF INTENT
AREAS, AND CONES OF DEPRESSION

Table 11:
CAPACITY USE, NOTICE OF INTENT, AND CONES OF DEPRESSION AREA IN WATERSHED
(See SCDHEC 2007 [c] and SCDNR 2004 in References Section.)

Area	Percent of Watershed
% Watershed in Cone of Depression and Capacity Use (CU) Area	0%
% Watershed in SCDHEC Capacity Use (CU) Area	100%
% Watershed in SCDHEC Notice of Intent (NOI) Area	0%

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Water Quantity Cont.

Table 12:
INDICATORS OF IRRIGATION WATER USAGE (WHOLE COUNTY DATA ARE USED)
(See NASS 2002 and SCDNR 2004 in References Section)

County	Total Irrigated Water Used MGD	Total NASS Cropland (ac)	Cropland Under Irrigation (ac)	Percent Cropland Under Irrigation	Water Use Gal/Ac/Day for Irrigated Land
Dillon	1.80	90,048	1,928	2.1	934
Horry	3.14	101,336	741	0.7	4,238
Marion	1.90	57,783	575	1.0	3,304

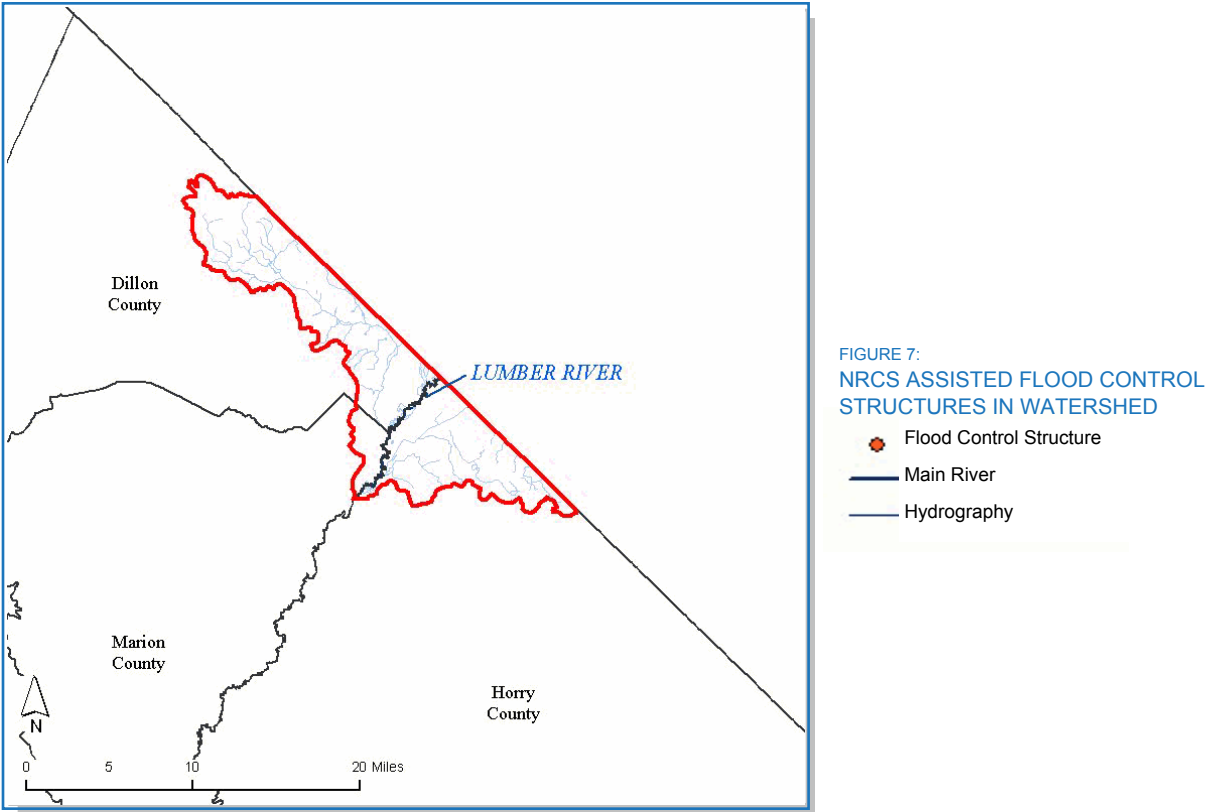


Table 13:
NRCS IMPLEMENTED FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES

Number of Structures (in Watershed)	Maximum Storage (AcFt)	Number of Structures by Hazard Class			
		High	Low	Significant	Unclassified
0	-	0	0	0	0

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Water Quality

The number of surface water quality impairments is shown in Table 15 resulting in a "303(d)" listing of that Water Quality Monitoring Site (WQMS). Table 5 indicates what progress has been made to address surface water quality through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. Once a TMDL plan is approved, the WQMS is removed from the 303(d) list even though the standard may not have been attained. Note that standards for total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a only exist for lakes; therefore, no stream in the state can be listed for any of these three parameters.

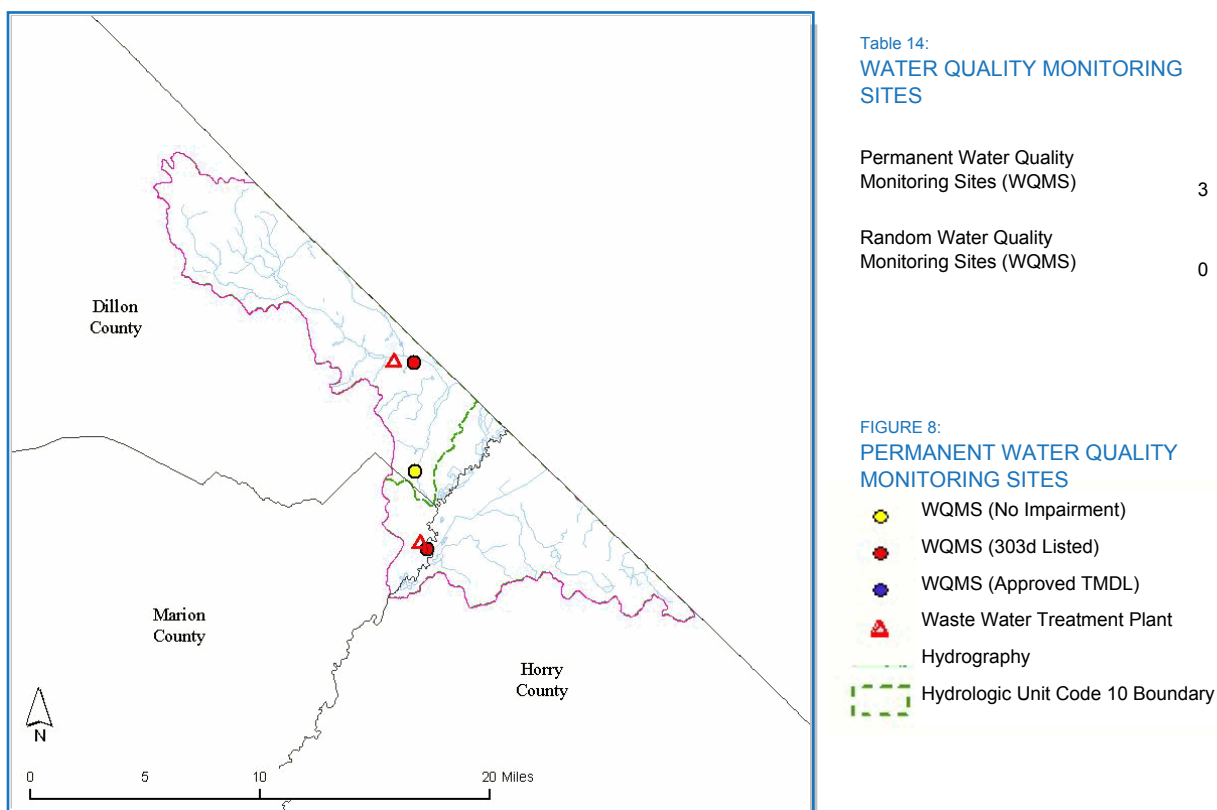


Table 15:
NUMBER OF MONITORING SITES SHOWING SURFACE WATER QUALITY IMPAIRMENTS
(See SCDHEC 2006 in References for the state 303(d) list.)

Recreational Use Standard		Fish Tissue Standard		Shellfish Harvest Standard	
Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments
Fecal Coliform		Mercury	2	Fecal Coliform	NA
		PCB's	0		
Aquatic Life Use Standard					
Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments
Biological	0	Dissolved Oxygen	1	Total Phosphorus	0
Chlorophyll A	0	Ammonia Nitrogen	0	pH	0
Chromium	0	Nickel	0	Turbidity	0
Copper	0	Total Nitrogen	0	Zinc	0

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Plant Condition

Plants of Economic Importance

Plants of economic importance are shown in Table 16. The crops shown in this table are from NASS data where the top five crops, by acres, in each county are displayed. The timber statistics (see Clemson Extension Forest Services 2003 in References) indicate the relative importance of the timber industry within the state and the importance of the timber industry compared to agriculture within the county.

The most prominent crops in the subbasin include cotton, corn and wheat for grain, tobacco and soybeans.

Native Plant Species

According to SC DNR's "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section), the following applies to this subbasin: in the river bottoms on the coastal plains, one frequently finds hardwood-dominated woodlands with moist soils that are usually associated with major river floodplains and creeks. Characteristic trees include: sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), cherrybark oak (*Quercus pagoda*) and American holly (*Ilex opaca*).

The Cypress-tupelo swamp subtype occurs on lower elevation sites as seasonally flooded swamps. It is usually transected by tannic-acid rivers and creeks and contains oxbow lakes and pools. Dominant trees are bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), swamp gum (*Nyssa biflora*), Carolina ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*), water elm (*Planera aquatica*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*).

Another common feature in this subbasin is the Carolina Bay. Carolina bays are isolated wetlands in natural shallow depressions that are largely fed by rain and shallow groundwater. These bays have an elliptical shape and generally a northwest to southeast orientation. Carolina bays vary but tend to host many different plant and animal species.

Table 16:

WHOLE COUNTY DATA OF PLANTS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE IN SUBBASIN

(See: USDA NASS 2002 & Clemson University Forest Extension Services 2003 in References section)

Plant	Counties
All Cotton	Dillon, Marion
All Wheat for grain	Marion, Horry, Dillon
Corn for grain	Dillon, Marion, Horry
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	Horry
Soybeans	Dillon, Horry, Marion
Tobacco	Marion, Horry, Dillon
Timber, Top 10 Rank in SC	Marion
Timber Revenues Exceed Ag. Revenues	Marion

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Table 17:
FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES IN WATERSHED
(See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Status
Pondberry	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	Endangered
Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	Endangered
Sea-beach amaranth	<i>Amaranthus pumilus</i>	Threatened
Chaff-seed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	Endangered

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Fish and Wildlife

For additional information, the SC Department of Natural Resources has completed a "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section).

In 2005, mercury advisories were issued for 57 water bodies in South Carolina. Higher concentrations of mercury in fish tissue tend to occur in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina with relatively lower concentrations (and therefore fewer advisories) in the Piedmont. For more details on fish advisories, please refer to the SCDHEC fish advisory website at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/fish/>

Table 18:

FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE SPECIES IN WATERSHED

(See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Status
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Endangered
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Endangered
Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	Endangered

Table 19:

FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED AQUATIC SPECIES IN WATERSHED

(See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Status
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Endangered

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL FACTORS

Domestic Animals

Grazing livestock populations are modest (Table 20). Confined livestock operations are dominated by swine and poultry (Figure 9, Table 21).

Table 20:

WHOLE COUNTY GRAZING ANIMAL POPULATION DATA FROM 2002 AG. CENSUS

(See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

County	Cows/Calves	Grazing/Forage (ac)	County Rank in State
Dillon	1,526	1,373	43
Horry	8,425	8,996	23
Marion	5,243	3,628	26

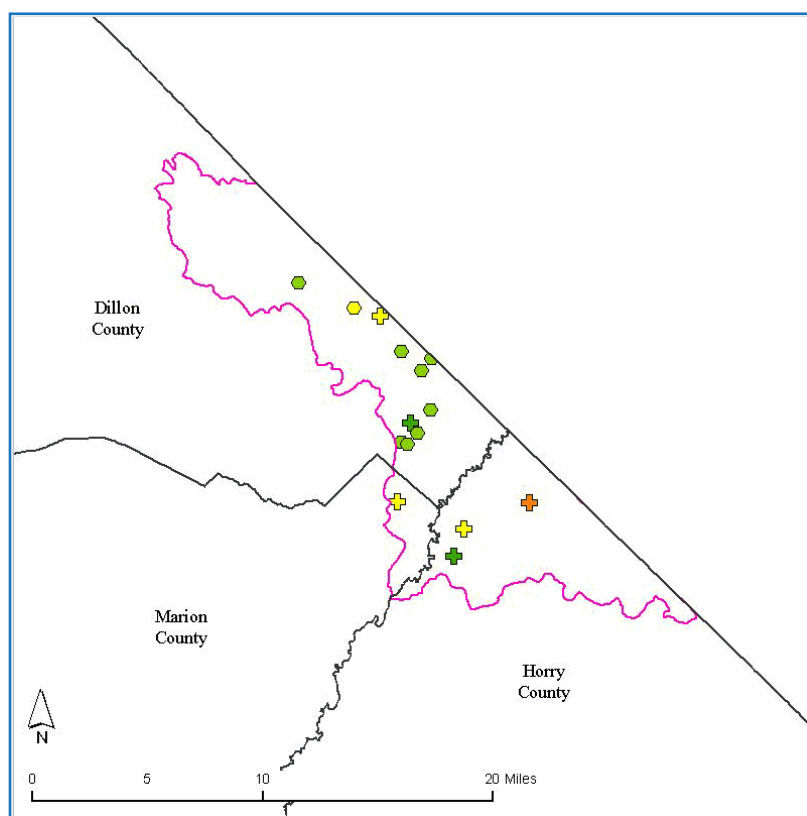


Table 21:

CONFINED ANIMAL POPULATION [As given by SCDHEC] (Au = Animal Unit = 1,000 lbs)

Beef Live Weight (Au)	-
Dairy Live Weight (Au)	-
Horse Live Weight (Au)	-
Poultry Live Weight (Au)	2,761
Swine Live Weight (Au)	2,739
Turkey Live Weight (Au)	-

FIGURE 9:

TYPE AND SIZE OF CONFINED ANIMAL OPERATION

Permit Design Count (Live Weight AU)	
0 - 163	* Beef
164 - 372	■ Dairy
373 - 680	▲ Other
681 - 1360	● Poultry
1361 - 7076	+ Swine
	★ Turkey

* Weighted averages are estimated based on agricultural land use area.

REFERENCES

The number of full-time farmers is *higher* than the state average of 47% and farm sizes are *larger* than the state average of 197 ac (Table 22); both parameters suggest *above* average levels of participation in conservation programs. The subbasin is unique in the state in that farm sizes and amount of cropland acres actually *increased* between 1997 and 2002; this is compared to average farm size reductions of 13% and average cropland losses of 8% across the state.



The relative importance of crop and livestock commodity groups in the watershed is shown in Tables 24 and 25; a *qualitative* indication of the relative importance of timber is provided on Table 16.

For more economic and farm information from the 2002 Agricultural Census, more detailed reports for all South Carolina counties can be found at:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/profiles/sc/index.htm>

Table 22:

2002 FARM CENSUS DATA (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN) (SC average farm size = 197 ac)

County	Total Number of Farms	% Full Time Farmers	% Farms > 180 (ac)	Average Farm Size (ac)
Dillon	197	70%	50%	570
Horry	988	54%	24%	191
Marion	213	60%	36%	438
Weighted Avg*	484	65%	41%	435

Table 23:

2002 FARM CENSUS ECONOMIC DATA (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN) (Results in \$1,000)

County	Market Value of Ag Products Sold	Market Value of Crops Sold	Market Value of Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products	Farms with sales < \$10,000
Dillon	69,247	22,793	46,454	81
Horry	54,451	38,571	15,880	677
Marion	24,157	16,352	7,804	141
Weighted Avg*	63,260	28,508	34,752	298



Table 24:

VALUE OF CROP COMMODITY GROUPS - COUNTY RANK IN STATE

(See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

County	Value of All Crops	Grains & Oilseeds	Tobacco	All Cotton	Vegetables & Melons	Fruits, Nuts, & Berries	Nursery, Etc.	Christmas Trees & Woody Crops	Hay & other Crops
Dillon	9	3	4	2	(D)	(D)	42	-	42
Horry	3	5	1	(D)	11	14	25	(D)	26
Marion	13	13	3	12	31	38	40	-	36

REFERENCES

Table 25:
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMODITY GROUPS - RANK IN STATE
(See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

County	Value of Livestock, poultry	Poultry, Eggs	Cattle & Calves	Milk & Dairy	Hogs & Pigs	Sheep & Goats	Horses, etc.
Dillon	7	12	43	-	1	(D)	(D)
Horry	19	24	23	(D)	2	10	11
Marion	26	23	26	-	12	(D)	(D)

APPENDIX

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APPENDIX

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APPENDIX

Level III Common Resource Area (Ecological Region) Descriptions

Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain (63)

The Middle Atlantic Coastal consists of low elevation, flat plains, with many swamps, marshes, and estuaries. Forest cover in the region, once dominated by longleaf pine in the Carolinas, is now mostly loblolly and some shortleaf pine, with patches of oak, gum, and cypress near major streams. Pine plantations for pulpwood and lumber are typical, with some areas of cropland. In South Carolina, the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain is divided into three level IV ecoregions Carolinian Barrier Islands and Coastal Marshes (63g), Carolina Flatwoods (63h), Mid-Atlantic Floodplains and Low Terraces (63n).

Southeastern Plains (65)

The Southeastern Plains are irregular with broad interstream areas have a mosaic of cropland, pasture, woodland, and forest. In the past centuries, human activities (logging, agriculture and fire suppression) removed almost all of the longleaf pine forests. Elevations and relief are greater than in the Southern Coastal Plain (75), but generally less than in much of the Piedmont (45). The ecoregion has been divided into three level IV ecoregions within South Carolina: Sand Hills (65c), Atlantic Southern Loam Plains (65l), and Southeastern Floodplains and Low Terraces (65p). Note: The Atlantic Southern Loam Plains (65l) is a major agricultural zone, with deep, well-drained soils, and is characterized by high percentages of cropland.

NRCS Conservation Practices used for Conservation Treatment Categories in Table 3

Report Category	Practice Codes
Buffer and Filter Strips	332, 391, 393, 412
Conservation Tillage	324, 329, 329A, 329B, 344, 484
Erosion Control	327, 328, 330, 340, 342, 561, 585, 586
Irrigation Water Management	441, 449
Nutrient Management	590
Pest Management	595
Prescribed Grazing	528, 528A
Trees and Shrubs	490, 612, 655, 656, 66
Wetlands	657, 658, 659
Wildlife Habitat	644, 645

APPENDIX

Hydrologic Unit Numbering System

In 2005, the NRCS in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the U.S. Forest Service updated the South Carolina part of the USGS standard hydrologic unit map series. The report, "Development of a 10- and 12- Digit Hydrologic Unit Code Numbering System for South Carolina, 2005", describes and defines those efforts. The following is from the Abstract contained in that report: "A hydrologic unit map showing the subbasins, watersheds, and subwatersheds of South Carolina was developed to represent 8-, 10-, and 12-digit hydrologic unit codes, respectively. The 10- and 12-digit hydrologic unit codes replace the 11- and 14-digit hydrologic unit codes developed in a previous investigation. Additionally, substantial changes were made to the 8-digit subbasins in the South Carolina Coastal Plain. These modifications include the creation of four new subbasins and the renumbering of existing subbasins." The report may be obtained at http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/HUC_report.pdf. See Table 2 in the report for a cross-reference of old to new 8-digit HUC.

This subbasin profile uses the new HUC 8 numbering system with its modified and newly created subbasins. The NRCS reports implemented practices by 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code. All NRCS reported Conservation Practices were reported using the older numbering system. 2005 and 2006 data were converted to the new HUC 8 numbering system through the Latitude and Longitude data reported with the applied practice. The use of these differing numbering systems has resulted in some NRCS implemented practices being credited in this report to an 8-digit HUC as reported by the NRCS but not correctly credited in the new numbering system. Likewise, the newly created 8-digit HUC will not be credited with the 2004 applied practices.